

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Trudovak Information

DATE DISTR. 7 October 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

50X1-HUM

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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50X1-HUM

1. In May and June 1951, Trudovak Unit, [] subordinate to Trudovak Battalion, [] worked on the construction of an airfield, about three kilometers north of Dobrich. The unit had a total strength of two officers, three non-commissioned officers and 126 enlisted men and had no permanent sub-units, but a fluctuating number of temporary platoons depending on the work to be done. The unit bivouacked in tents at the airfield. 50X1-HUM
2. From June to September 1951, Trudovak Units, [] which also bivouacked in tents, worked on the construction of the airfield north of Dobrich. These units were subordinate to Trudovak Battalion, [] Trudovak Unit, [] had a strength of two officers, five non-commissioned officers and about 240 enlisted men. 50X1-HUM
3. From May to September 1951, Trudovak Battalion, [] was allegedly subordinate to Trudovak District Headquarters in Shumen. The headquarters of Trudovak Battalion, [] and Trudovak Unit, [] also referred to as the supply unit subordinate to this battalion, were located in a 3-story barracks installation in the road fork, approximately two kilometers north of Dobrich, south of the railroad line. 50X1-HUM
4. Trudovak Unit, [] the supply unit of the battalion, provided the guards and the administrative personnel for the magazines and fatigue details for the battalion kitchen, which prepared the meals for all subordinate labor service units. 50X1-HUM
5. In May 1951, the members of Trudovak Battalion, [] received military basic training of only two weeks including parading practices and tent pitching and excluding training with weapons. They also received political indoctrination from the chief of the unit, who held two 2-hour lessons weekly on the development of the Communist Party in Bulgaria and the USSR. 50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

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-2-

6. Except for the officers, who had epaulets, the Trudovak soldiers wore no epaulets. They had black collar patches with rank insignia. Privates had no rank insignia while acting corporals had one narrow yellow stripe, corporals one yellow stripe of medium width, sergeants two narrow yellow stripes and technical sergeants one very wide yellow stripe.
7. In 1951, the men serving with the Trudovaks were members of the 1930 class inducted in 1950. After May 1951, they included members of the 1951 class and a limited number of members of older classes. The men were in a rather depressed mood because of the high working quotas they had to fulfill. 50X1-HUM
8. From May to September 1950, Trudovak Unit, [] worked at the building site of a state-run power plant north of Pernik. The unit included the headquarters and three platoons each of six 10-man brigades. It was located in Pernik and belonged to the IV Trudovak Battalion stationed at Pernik, which was still designated as the IV Group at that time. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
9. From September to December 1950, Trudovak Unit, [] which had the same T/O as Trudovak Unit, [] and also belonged to the IV Trudovak Battalion, worked on road construction approximately 20 kilometers west of Dupnitsa. The unit bivouacked in tents near a village.
10. From May to December 1950, the IV Trudovak Battalion was subordinate to the VII Trudovak District Headquarters stationed at Bankya (N 42-42, E 23-08), about 10 kilometers west of Sofia.
11. From January to March 1951, Trudovak Unit, [] worked on the construction of field fortifications on the Greek border, about six kilometers southeast of Nevrokop, and from April to September 1951, on the construction of field fortifications on the Yugoslav border, southeast and southwest of Trun. 50X1-HUM
12. From January to September 1951, Trudovak Unit [] belonged to Trudovak Battalion, [] which moved to Trun in April 1951. 50X1-HUM
13. Trudovak Battalion, [] was subordinate to Trudovak District Headquarters, [] formerly VII Trudovak District Headquarters stationed at Bankya, and commanded by Colonel Stedimov, [] 50X1-HUM
14. In May 1950, the members of Trudovak Unit, [] received military basic training of only two weeks including parading and saluting and excluding training with weapons. When a Trudovak soldier had been displaced by Yugoslav agents after April 1951, Trudovak Unit, [] was equipped with about 60 rifles, which were issued mainly to members of the DSNM (Dimitrovski Shtyas na Narodnata Mladesh; Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth). The men regularly received political indoctrination on Communist leaders, the Communist constitution and current political problems during employment. 50X1-HUM
15. The clothing of the Trudovaks included a fatigue uniform and a dress uniform which included a dark-green overcoat. The fatigue uniforms consisted of blue overalls, rubber shoes and a cap. The dress uniform was army style and included ski trousers of green fabric, a blouse, a visorless garrison cap with a shovel and pickaxe emblem topped by a red five-pointed star device and a leather belt with a buckle inscribed "We construct - we watch."
16. Meals included breakfast consisting of tea, bread and jam, a soup for lunch and either one course of broth or two courses of meatless soup for supper.
17. Most Trudovaks disliked the Communist regime. Each platoon included some members of the DSNM who mostly served as brigade leaders and informed their superiors on the efficiency of the individual servicemen.

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